

ODDS TOO HEAVY, KING LEOPOLD LOSES TO DEATH

(Continued From Page One-Column 2.)

press of Mexico and wife of the ill-fated Maximilian.

The accession to the throne of Leopold II. was the signal for the realization of his various ambitions and unusual pleasures.

His political sagacity and recognized business ability soon placed Belgium far ahead of any other nation of its size, financially. But the questions of state did not by any means monopolize his attention, and his frequent escapades in Paris and London soon won for him the title of Europe's merriest monarch. He was the acknowledged friend of blacklegs and gamblers, and his female companions, of whom there were many, were well-known figures in the city. He had several of them attained world-wide notoriety, owing to their association with this pleasure-loving monarch, who lavished money on them and adorned them with expensive jewels.

One of the first of these was Clara Ward, then Princess Chimay, and an American girl, Leopold became acquainted with her in Paris, and invited her to his palace. But Queen Marie was at that time vigorous enough to protect and shield her son, the King's fair companion from the door.

But one of Leopold's favorite axioms was "variety is the spice of life," and he was soon made acquainted with the Merode, a famous danseuse. He even went so far as to present her with a string of the Queen's pearls, which caused her to attempt suicide. A servant, who chanced to enter the royal apartment at an unexpected moment, took the hair from the Queen's hands and prevented her from hanging herself.

Broke Queen's Heart.

But after that episode the Queen was never the same. Her spirit was broken, and she became melancholy.

The King's prolonged pleasure trips were at times the cause of grave concern among the Belgian officials. In one instance, when His Majesty had been absent for some time, and the Brussels Cabinet was beginning to despair of ever seeing him again, a dispatch appeared in a newspaper to the effect that "King Leopold and his three daughters" had arrived in a Mediterranean port, aboard the yacht, where they were received by the authorities with all the honor due their rank.

The real daughters, however, happened to be at the Palace Laeken at the time, and they were forced to remain indoors until the return of their father. The King, however, had already aboard the yacht as the King's daughters were three Parisian ballet girls.

These scandalous escapades were the cause of constant worry and part of the pious Queen, and resulted in numerous estrangements. She finally died on September 19, 1902, following an attack of dyspepsia. At the time of her death King Leopold was in France, and had to be sent for.

Although getting on in years, the monarch still retained his love for pleasure, and this was no doubt due to his regular habits. He was very fond of outdoor exercise and drank very little.

Soon after his wife's death he became entangled in another love affair, which has been the most severely criticized of his many amours.

The woman in the case was Caroline Lacroix, whose parents were janitors in Paris. She was known as the Baroness Vaughan, and so infatuated did the King become with her that he established her in a beautiful home, called the Villa Flora, directly opposite his palace at Laeken, and compelled his subjects to lodge with her.

This woman exercised a greater control over the little King than any of her predecessors, and she was treated with far more consideration than any member of the royal family. She bore him two sons, and the question as to whether the oldest of these would be Leopold's successor instead of his nephew, the Count of Flanders, has been the cause for grave concern.

Criticized by Press.

The price of the woman, Leopold showered on this woman and the magnificence of her surroundings were severely criticized by the Belgian press, and it has been rumored many times



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SCHWARZSCHILD BROS., Jewelers,
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that the King would be forced to abdicate, if he persisted in his mad infatuation. Protests from several of his ministers proved of no avail, but only resulted in more extravagance. So great was the power of this woman over the King, that he created a baron by the King.

She is now about thirty-one years old, plump but graceful, with a beautiful complexion and dark hair, and has quantities of chestnut hair. In character, it is said, she is haughty, sharp, irritable and fantastic. Her choice of words is small, for she has a serious education to speak of. She is insistent, however, about being treated with respect, and any one in His Majesty's entourage who failed in this felt his displeasure.

But Leopold's escapades with the denizens of the Parisian cafes, and the indignities which heaped upon the members of his family, dwindle into insignificance when compared with the horrible atrocities committed at his instigation in the Congo Free State.

The former revealed him as a selfish person without an atom of self-respect or decency, but the latter stamped him as the most inhuman and barbarous ruler of modern times.

Left comparatively poor, as a result of the will of his father, and realizing the limitations of a constitutional government, he conceived the idea of establishing an empire in Central Africa where his word would be law.

At the conference of the world's powers in Berlin, the charter of the Congo Free State was issued and Leopold was made Emperor, with the understanding that he should defend the rights and property of the natives and open the heart of Central Africa to the commerce of the world.

With his keen insight into commercial affairs, he soon realized the enormous wealth that would result from the rubber, ivory and other products of the Congo. He immediately issued a proclamation, which took the land out of the hands of the natives and placed it in his own. In order to increase his revenues, he then established the famous concessionaire system. This consisted of a number of companies, all of which were to be responsible for the rubber, ivory and other products of the Congo. The step, it is claimed, has been responsible for the inhuman cruelties practiced in that section of the Dark Continent, and the idea was conceived by one of his fair Parisian companions. In order to obtain quick results, Leopold called a conference in Brussels in 1889 and secured permission to remove the natives from the land, and to put the army was recruited from the most ferocious tribes of Africa, many of them being cannibals.

The natives were then compelled to bring in a certain amount of rubber and ivory every day, and when they failed, they were beaten and tortured, and very often murdered. A favorite system of torture was the cutting off of the hands of boys and girls who failed to do the work prescribed.

In this way the revenue increased at an astonishing rate, and was estimated at \$10,000,000 a year. But at what a horrible cost! The population was decreased from 20,000,000 to 15,000,000, the missing 5,000,000 having been burned to death or otherwise exterminated.

A well organized press bureau, with headquarters in the principal cities of the world, was established for many years, and the only inkling of the horrible crimes that were being perpetrated leaked out from time to time through some misdeeds.

These tales read like the stories of Nero's persecution of the Christians, and were at first considered to be credited. One told of the case of a young native girl who was flogged almost to death. The welts on her body were then beaten and tortured, and she was left to the mercy of the ants and other insects, who swarmed over her body while the intense heat of the tropical sun added to her torture.

Another described the slaughter of the population of an entire village for a further inquiry.

The men and women were slaughtered like sheep, and the butchers feasted on the remains of their victims. It was proved that he had accomplished his work, the chief cut off the right hands of the victims and took them to headquarters.

To End His Reign.

These gruesome tales finally reached civilization, and at the beginning of the present century a movement was started to bring this notorious monarch's reign to an end. Since then blood-curdling tales of the horrible conditions ruled Congo have been written by travelers, journalists and missionaries, and finally public opinion became so inflamed that a movement was made to appoint an international commission.

The wily Leopold objected to this, and a number of resolutions were passed to prove that he had accomplished his work, the chief cut off the right hands of the victims and took them to headquarters.

The civilized world was horrified at the facts, and vigorous efforts were made to have resolutions passed by the Congress of the United States and the English Parliament calling for a further inquiry.

It was also learned that Leopold had granted valuable concessions to a number of American capitalists in the rubber territory of the Congo.

Through the efforts of the Congo Reform Association, however, Leopold's rule was finally brought to an end in August, 1908, and the Congo was annexed as a Belgian colony.

His report, however, reports the improvement under the new regime

has not been as great as was expected, but it is vastly better than that of Leopold, who used it solely to obtain money at the cost of millions of human lives.

Leopold's rule of his own state, however, has been rather creditable, although this was no doubt, due to the fact that Belgium is a constitutional monarchy. He has beautified the city of Brussels and made Belgium a financial power.

Possessing a highly artistic temperament, his residences at Laeken, Spa, Brussels and Villefranche are works of art. He spent 30,000,000 francs in rebuilding and embellishing his palace at Laeken, which was almost burned to the ground in 1890. This palace is the most luxurious royal residence on the continent, and the plans of its present form were drawn up by the King himself.

A Favorite Hobby.

One of his favorite hobbies was the collection of rare plants from all over the world, and the conservatories at Laeken are famous for over Europe. Another was the collection of Japanese pagodas. He gathered them of all shapes and sizes, from the miniature creations of the beautiful Japanese art to the great structures which stand in the park at Laeken.

But, while Leopold indulged in all sorts of wild extravagances to satisfy his own desires, he was extremely miserly in providing even the necessities of life for his family. The Queen was compelled to live on a miserable pittance, her royal spouse having seized upon the palace yachts. His high life made him a victim of gout, and it has been reported that his eyesight was ruined by his family. The Queen was compelled to resort to the courts to obtain even a part of their fortune.

But in his last days this despot reaped the harvest he had so willingly sown. Decried by his family, he was left to his own sad and bitter reflections. He sold most of his magnificent estates, and made many attempts to sell his palatial yachts. His high life made him a victim of gout, and it has been reported that his eyesight was ruined by his family. The Queen was compelled to resort to the courts to obtain even a part of their fortune.

Thus perished Europe's "merriest monarch," and nothing remains to mark his reign except the ghastly monument of skeletons and maimed human beings in the Congo Free State.

LOOSE ADMITS HE FAKED STORY ABOUT DR. COOK

(Continued From Page One-Column 2.)

that he did not know, as a matter of fact, that Loose was going to "confess."

Captain Loose, at his home in Brooklyn last night, said that a man named Lightfoot had been writing queer letters to him, but that this was all he knew of the report, which greatly angered him.

Captain Loose heard of Captain Osborn's "revelations" with some anger. "Why, he's crazy," said Captain Loose. "He is in his second childhood. I have not seen him at all lately."

Attempt to Bribe.

Then he went on to say that an attempt had been made to bribe him to repudiate his story in regard to his dealings with Dr. Cook.

Captain Osborn's outgiving, however, did result in bringing out the fact that an attempt had been made to bribe Captain Loose to repudiate the story of his dealings with Dr. Cook, to which he has made affidavit, and

that it failed because, as Captain Loose said, he had only told the truth about that, and could not very well deny it, in view of the corroborating story that had reached from important sources.

"I have refused," he said, "the offer of a large sum, between \$4,000 and \$5,000, I believe, to repudiate my affidavit with regard to the observations I supplied to Dr. Cook. The offer was made to me on December 10 by George H. Lightfoot, a broker, whom I know as a promoter of a mining company."

It was in Lightfoot's office, said Captain Loose, that a proposal that he repudiate his affidavit regarding Dr. Cook's story as published in the Times was made to him. Lightfoot was the maker. He, Captain Loose, refused the offer and went home. The next day, December 11, he received a letter from Lightfoot, asking him to come to his office. He paid no attention to it. Two days later Lightfoot wrote him again, the letter given out by Captain Osborn. To this also he paid no attention. George H. Dunkle heard of Captain Osborn's "revelations" with amusement.

"Something in Wind."

Mr. Dunkle contributed this addition to the story.

"I knew there was something in the wind. On Wednesday morning Captain Loose showed me a letter written to him by George H. Lightfoot, whom I knew as a man selling mining stock. The captain told me that Lightfoot had informed him that if he (Captain Loose) would retract certain statements in his affidavit there was a check for about \$4,000 waiting for him to cash in a certain bank, to which he (Lightfoot) would take him. It is a curious coincidence that Dr. Cook was in the city at the time to pay us for our work at the Gramatan inn."

Mr. Dunkle added that the captain had informed him that Lightfoot had said that if the captain was not prepared to alter his statement in favor of Dr. Cook he would drop the matter altogether.

"It might also point out," said Mr. Dunkle, "that Lightfoot at one time was selling stock of the Pan-American Development Company, and it was on the letterhead of that concern that Dr. Cook said he received a communication suggesting to him that there might be a conspiracy to steal his records on the way to Copenhagen."

MME. GOUN FOUND DEAD UNDER TRAIN

French Authorities Believe They See Proof of Sensational Crime.

PARIS, December 16.—The mangled body of Mme. Goun, whose husband was the late Jules Edouard Goun, governor of the Bank of France, was found under a train near Paris to-day. The door of the compartment in which she was traveling was almost torn from its hinges, and there was a pool of blood on the floor.

The police believe they have found evidence of a crime. Rings and other jewelry are missing from her reticule, which was turned inside out, and a curtain of the door of the compartment, covered with bloody finger marks, was found half a mile from the body.

The affair has created a sensation on account of the prominence of the woman, but no arrest has yet been made.

Coleman—Cobb.

George K. Coleman, of Richmond, and Miss Pearl J. Cobb, of Penola, Va., were married in Washington yesterday.

L. & N. STOCK PUT ON 7 PER CENT. BASIS

Makes Impressive Demonstration of South's Recovery From Panic.

NEW YORK, December 16.—Shortly before the close of the Stock Exchange to-day it was announced that the semi-annual dividend rate on Louisville and Nashville stock had been increased to 7 1/2 per cent., putting the stock on a 7 per cent. annual basis, but the price movement of the issue seemed to indicate that the news had been more or less discounted.

Louisville and Nashville's action in putting its dividend on a 7 per cent. basis surprised one acquainted with the earnings capacity of the road. It was only last June, however, that the dividend was restored to a 6 per cent. basis, and another increase at the following dividend period yesterday was taken as an impressive demonstration of the rapidity with which the South has rallied from the prostration of the panic. Another indication of the same recovery, it was suggested to-day, was to be found in the strength of the Southern Railway.

FOR SCHOOL BETTERMENT THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16.—President Taft presided this evening at the annual meeting of the executive board of the Jeanes fund of \$1,000,000 for the betterment of small rural negro schools in the South, which was held in Cabinet room at the White House.

Andrew Carnegie, Booker T. Washington, George F. Peabody, Walter W. Page, Dr. J. H. Dillard, of New Orleans and Bishop Grant of Kansas, were among those who attended and spoke.

It was decided to continue work under the fund upon the plan adopted last year, of sending teachers through the South, who in reality teach the teachers of the rural schools there in the newer methods of education. The number of these teachers was increased from 140 to 152, this having been made possible by an unexpected balance from last year from interest earned on the original endowment. The need of additional funds with which to carry on the work was emphasized by an appeal from 100 negro principals and teachers in the South.

The Jeanes fund teachers are divided into classes, consisting of extension teachers, supervising teachers and organizing teachers. They divide their work among 1,700 schools in ten of the Southern States.

Professor B. C. Caldwell, former president of the Louisiana State Normal School, presided, and held an interest in the great to the president of the board, a newly-created office.

The board adjourned to meet again at the White House the second Thursday of next December.

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The department, in the report regarding the Atlanta agency, says that it has not yet completed its examination of the company's home office, and knows the facts as to the Atlanta situation only from testimony taken in the progress of the investigation of the home office.

The examiners of the department, it is announced, will visit Atlanta, when conditions will be probed.

The department says that no more than \$20,000 can be realized on the property turned over by Harry Stockdell, the former general agent at Atlanta.

Henry Evans, chairman of the executive committee of the Phenix Insurance Company, of Brooklyn, for the directors, makes the following statement:

"We have known the Stockdell shortage from the time I came into the situation, and the company has been secured to the extent that seems possible at this time by Mr. Stockdell's turning over to it his residence and such other property as he has. The value of the property has not yet been determined. It may be \$20,000 or more."

"In any event, the amount is not large, and without any credit for the value of his property has not yet been determined. I still believe the company has, besides its large reserves for unearned premiums and other liabilities fully stated, a capital intact of \$1,500,000 and a net surplus of \$500,000, and am willing personally to buy the stock of the company on that basis."

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Ten \$500 Pianos can be bought at this Manufacturers' Sale for \$273 each. These Pianos are fully

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